

## Stocksbridge Town Deal Board

**DATE AND TIME:** Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022, 13:00 – 14:30

**LOCATION:** Miriam Cates' Office, Maria House, Fox Valley Way & via Microsoft Teams

### **ATTENDEES:**

#### **Board members attending:**

- • Miriam Cates, MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge – Co Chair (MC)
- • Ian Sanderson, SLR Outlets – Temporary Co-Chair (IS)
- • Graham Silverwood, STEP & SCLC (GS)
- • Neil Curtis, Community Representative (NC)

#### **Also attending:**

- Howard Varns, Senior Programme Manager, SCC (HV)
- Amanda Holmes, Communications Officer, SCC (AH)
- Sam Townsend, Cities and Local Growth Unit, DLU (STo)
- Natalia Govorukhina, Finance and Commercial Manager, SCC
- Joy Grant, Project Support Officer, SCC (JCG)

#### **Apologies:**

- Gillian Duckworth, Director of Legal & Governance, SCC
- Matt Bartle, Lead Officer, MCA
- Julie Grocutt, Deputy Leader, SCC
- John Crawshaw, J W Crawshaw Ltd
- Dave Cates, Redemption Media
- Chris Bell, Don Valley Railway Trust
- Yuri Matischen, MD, MLSBG

# Minutes

1. **Item: Welcome and confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting and discuss any issues arising** Miriam Cates

MC welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no issues arising from the previous minutes.

2. **Item: Governance - Declaration of interest – to declare any interests in items on the agenda** Miriam Cates

GS declared an interest in the Leisure Centre, and hydrotherapy pool.

3. **Item: PowerPoint Presentation - Stocksbridge Towns Fund – Our Projects Board Overview** Howard Varns

HV screen shared his PowerPoint presentation showing the risks, issues or concerns around each project. The recommendation is for the Board to endorse the finalisation of the summary document followed by sign off by MC and SCC's S151 Officer by the 17<sup>th</sup> of August.

## **Library & Community Hub**

Key comments were:

- **Naming of the building** – work is still ongoing.
- **Edison's Report** – The report was positive in terms of demand within the market. The managed workspace could see 100+ people a day with several full time jobs created.. In terms of the benefits and outputs more work is needed. It needs to prove itself as commercially viable during the two years of initial funding provided by the Towns Fund.
- **Community Interest Company** – It is still the intention to explore the viability of establishing a CIC.
- **Phase 2** – HV outlined that the Board's role needs to change from commissioning to performance management once funding is confirmed and projects enter the delivery phase. The main role of the board will become engagement with local residents and businesses about the impact of the delivery of the Towns Fund projects. There also may be a role in developing further funding bids to Government.
- **St Luke's** have written to MC and JG. Discussions are ongoing around a relocation plan for their charity shop so they can remain in Stocksbridge as part of the regenerated high street.
- The potentially displaced property owners on Manchester Road have now appointed an agent who is assisting them.

**Bargain Booze** – discussions are underway about the plans to demolish their building to create more public space.

## **Manchester Road Place making and Shop Fronts**

- **Designs and Images** - HV outlined that these need to be developed further as they will be an essential tool for ongoing engagement with local businesses and for future consultation.
- **Shop frontages** – Shop frontage improvements are likely to be managed in two different ways. We expect enhancements to the precinct to be managed through council contracts; improvements to the remainder of the high street are expected to be delivered by grants against certain criteria given directly to shop owners / landlords. Work is still required to understand the best approach to take.

**MCA Money** – HV outlined that we are now seeking £3m of grant contribution from the MCA for the high street projects.

## **Accessibility/Connecting the Town**

- We are looking to improve the parking provision where possible as part of the project and enhance the current offer.

## **Community Bus Project/Post 16 Education and Skills**

- HV flagged that the bus project and the Post 16 Hub will require subsidy control (the new state aid) and external advice will be required on this.

## **Bus**

The intention is to call for proposals from community transport operators regarding providing a local bus service, funded by the Towns Fund.

- The key requirement will be to serve the geographical location of Stocksbridge, linking residents to services.
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**Post 16 Hub** – HV's outlined the current proposal is to grant fund Northern College to develop a post 16 education offer in the Community Hub.

## **Cycle and Walking Trails**

- The project is currently estimated to be circa £1m over its budget, mainly due to the requirement to provide budgets for long term maintenance to ensure these enhancements are maintained through their life cycle. There has also been scope creep on this project. Costings have been underway over the last few months and this latest budget position has only been understood very recently as cost calculations have been finalised. The specification and extent of project scope and affordability will be tested through the tendering process, if the funding bid is successful.

- Users and stakeholders have made suggestions about the benefit of the Towns Fund improving signage and mapping to raise awareness of the current and future walking offer in Stocksbridge.

### **Sports Hub**

- This project is now within budget because we are seeking to develop a 9V9 pitch at the bottom of the park. However, opportunities of additional funding via the FA may mean that a full size pitch may be viable which will facilitate a change of position within the park. This would create greater opportunities for more local teams to make use of the facility, making it far more sustainable.

**Football hub** the accessibility enhancements at SPS can be delivered, though not the full scope of things they initially wanted to do.

**Rugby Club** are good to go but there are concerns about when things are going to happen. The drainage issues still need to be sorted.

### **Overview**

- IS suggested that if there is any available underspend it would be useful to know ASAP. HV said in that case he would come back to Board so Board members can decide what they want to do.
- HV added that we just need to look at what the quick wins would be in terms of maximising the benefit of any underspend.

### **Hydrotherapy Pool**

- HV outlined that the hydrotherapy pool was within budget. A lot of work has been done with the leisure centre in terms of the business plan. HV flagged the need to look at energy costs to heat the pool. GS added there are solar panels already in use and room for more. The Leisure Centre has three biomass boilers and they have looked at underground heaters but the feasibility study was not completed in time for this funding.

### **Oxley Park**

- HV outlined that Oxley Park has charitable trust status so he has got to go through the Charities Commission regarding putting the 3G pitch in the park and also test what can happen with revenues as well on that. There is no issue that cannot be overcome and we are working through the final check.

### **Oxley Park Phase 2**

- HV reported that all was good on Oxley Park Phase 2. GS was concerned that there is no mention of the infill area in the business case. AH to pick this up with the Project Manager.

### **Rivers**

- HV outlined that they had provided the feasibility study that will show the benefits and modifications and the interventions that they are seeking to make. It is within budget but there is a slight issue in terms of delivery as Steel Valley is not VAT registered. Steel Valley might need to provide some consultancy support rather than delivery support.

### **What Happens Next**

- HV asked STo if there was a definitive position on the ability to change any of the projects. STo outlined that a formal request could be put in to redeploy money but there are no guarantees.

#### **4. Item: Date of Next Meeting:**

- Formal Board meetings and stakeholder meetings are paused until we understand the funding position and then will be recovered. It was agreed to convene at MC's office on 17<sup>th</sup> August at 10 am for the formal sign off. AH suggested taking the opportunity to do some signing off press pictures on that date.